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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MANNING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 28, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHY E. MANNING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, and their family members and caregivers.

I am speaking up because the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, made a decision that will severely limit access to the only drug

shown to slow the progression of Alzheimer's. I think their decision is a mistake.

Alzheimer's is a heartbreaking disease. It has no cure. These are the faces of Alzheimer's. They are our sisters, our brothers, our mothers, our fathers, our neighbors, our grandparents, our fellow Americans, who are living with this dreadful disease. As time passes, they are slipping away from their loved ones a little bit at a time. They have asked and hoped for something to help them. Anything. Anything that could give them more time with their families.

For the past 20 years, there has been little progress on new Alzheimer's drugs. Like too many other Americans, I have had the heartbreaking experience of watching my mother struggle with Alzheimer's, and still have the challenge of finding sufficient caregivers to help care for her and those who speak Spanish. My mother's story is not unique. Nearly 6 million people in the United States are suffering from Alzheimer's, and this number is growing every single day.

Last summer, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first new Alzheimer's drug, providing hope for families. But CMS will not cover it. They finalized a coverage policy that will tightly restrict access to the entire and only known class of drug that has shown promise to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Is that the way we should respond to this crisis?

This is an access issue. People who have money and can pay for it will get the drug. People who are under a CMS program will not.

Every day, Americans living with Alzheimer's are burdened with the expense of caregivers, doctors' visits, and seeing their family members decline. This is why my colleagues and I wrote a letter urging CMS not to limit access to breakthrough therapies for Alz-

heimer's patients. And as a representative of over 150,000 Angelenos who are living with Alzheimer's disease, I am deeply disappointed with CMS's decision. These are my constituents and members of my community, as well as yours. Time is not on our side in this fight.

To all the patients, families, and caregivers out there who are struggling with Alzheimer's, I am not done. I stand with you and I will continue to fight for you.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE NATION'S SERVICE ACADEMIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the men and women from Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District who have received appointments to our Nation's service academies. Through their academic work, their commitment to physical fitness, and their readiness to serve, these students have demonstrated that they are ready to begin the training that will ultimately lead to their commissioning as officers in our Armed Services.

This morning, I am proud to recognize:

Elizabeth Pfisterer of Adams County, who will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point;

Brian Johnson of Blair County, who will attend the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis;

Eli Burtner of Somerset County, who will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point;

Nathan Kirkwood of Franklin County, who will attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis; and

Meagan McHale of Franklin County, who will attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Nassau County, New York.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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